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#### US NEWS

### **Demand rises for bomb specialists**

By UPI

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FORT MEADE, MD, United States (UPI) -- Demand for bomb specialists in the U.S. Army has risen sharply and with it their remuneration because of the insurgency in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Known as explosive ordnance disposal specialists, their job is one of the Army's most dangerous and tends to attract some of the same personality types as the elite Green Berets, USA Today reported Monday. Their motto is "initial success or total failure."

In Iraq, the deadliest weapons are homemade explosives hidden in cars, under roads and even in animal carcasses. It is the job of the EODS to find and disable them.

The Army is so short of EOD specialists that it is paying bonuses of up to \$20,000 for recruits willing to sign up and awards up to \$50,000 to keep experienced soldiers, the report said. The Army also has assigned two full-time recruiters to persuade other soldiers to leave their jobs and become EODS.

Because of the shortage, the Pentagon also is hiring outside contractors to dispose of the hundreds of thousands of tons of munitions in Iraq.

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